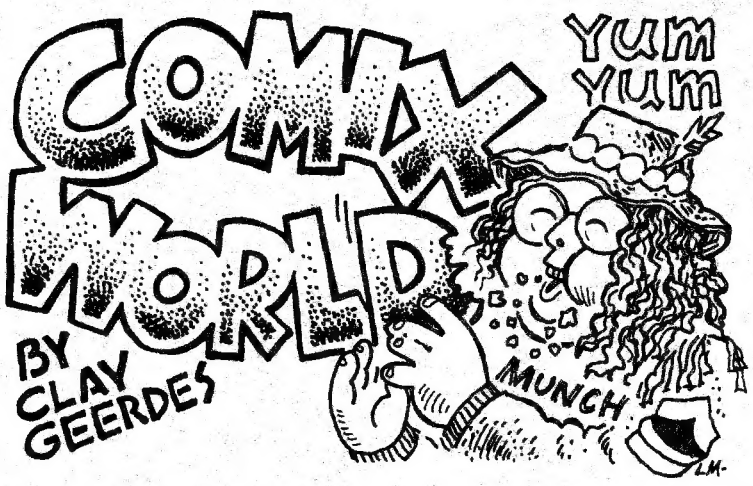

Lee Marrs' PUDGE is one of those undergrounds you can laugh at. While Charles Dallas's book shows what the primitive male world did to women, Lee shows the reader what a modern woman goes through when she happens to be born looking different, i.e., other than the way PLAYBOY thinks she ought to look. PUDGE comes to San Francisco in search of sex and love and finds it isn't all that easy to come by, love generation or no. A lot of us forget that life in those acid times of yore wasn't much different for fat people and other outsiders than it had always been. Ever see a 250 pound flower child in a mag? Neither did I until PUDGE came along. Lee takes on a lot of things in her book, which is punctuated with commercials for a lot of non-products you oughtn't to buy. She did that commercial for Pussee that ran on the back of the first BROADSIDE, a women's paper that may be back before this spring, and you saw her "Bra Charades" on the back of MANHUNT. Lee broke into the undergrounds in WIMMEN"S 1 with a three-pager, "All in a Day's Work" and she coordinated the women's panel for the first Underground Con held last April in Berkeley. From Alabama, Lee does a lot of freelance work. For a time she was art director for a television station in the East, but, like many artists these days, she has no love for New York. At present she is finishing an odiforous work of comic genius entitled THE COMPLEAT FART AND OTHER BODILY EFFUSIONS. Sounds great for Ms.

From PUDGE © LEE MARRS, 1973. YEAH!

OBSCENE SCENE: Canada stops comix. GEORGIA STRAIGHT had 13,000 confiscated in Vancouver and may no longer print. This means no Canadian edition of HAROLD HEDD 2. PLAYBOY, PENTHOUSE, and GENT also disappear from public racks. Looks like heavy oppression up that way. Meanwhile, HAROLD HEDD 1 is back in print in San Francisco. Same large format and still a dollar. At Last-Gasp, President Ron Turner sees an increase in prices this year. Printers have decided to increase their prices 35-40%. While the straight comics went from 12 to 20 cents in the late 60's to keep up with cost increases, the ugs remained stable. That's no longer possible, says Turner. "If the fans want this art to continue, they'll have to bear their share of the cost increase. He sees prices from 60¢ to a dollar. COMING UP: In Mid-January: ETERNAL (John Thompson), WIMMEN's 3 (ed. Sharon Rudahl), ALL CANADIAN BEAVER (Holmes cover and Harold Hedd centerfold). Late January: Grisly's IMAGE OF THE BEAST (adapted from the book by Philip Jose Farmer) and Barney Steel's third ARMAGEDDON (B/W - $1). In Feb, Vaughn Bode's SCHIZOPHRENIA. In the Spring, a new SKULL and SLOW DEATH. Pencils are done on Corben's adaptation of Harlan Ellison's A BOY AND HIS DOG. From Greg Miller and Lexi Pickett, Artists-at-Large, SNAPPER. From Tellez and Gasparotti, COMPOST. A sleeper coming up from Bruce Herschenson and East Coast Comix, a book by Steve Ditko--AVENGING WORLD. From Print Mint, ZAP #7. All art in except Moscoso's. Shelton has a couple of pages to go before the third Freak Bros book will be out. Those Bellepheron books are out. Shelton did MILLER'S TALE, IRONS the WYF OF BATHE, and doesn't that good lady resemble an underground publisher we know? Rand Holmes did the wrap-around cover to be used on Marc Estrin's HISTORY OF THE UNDERGROUND COMIX soon to be published by Straight Arrow Press in San Francisco. Bhob Stewart corrects me on TALES FROM THE FRIDGE. Global McBlimp not related to Bill Gaines in any way (that was my analogy, not Bhob's). Says Bhob: "Truth is that the story was inspired by a TIME item about two years ago concerning a man in Brooklyn who supposedly makes terrific hamburgers and a plan by the former Kentucky Fried Chicken promoter to capitalize on this hamburger recipe. In general, FRIDGE was intended as a reaction to fast-food operations-which I detest. Global represents a sort of everyman, a victim of fastfood Society. You might call him an Everyeater." +++

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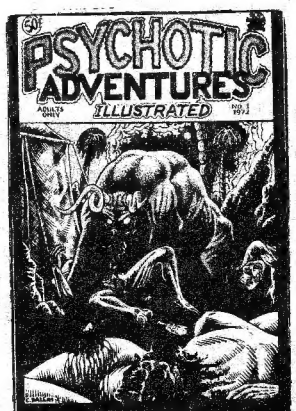
On December 30, 1973, Cotati was the site of a mini-con. Promoted by Chuck Rogers, the event took place in the Inn of the Beginning and The Last Hiding Place. More of a small party, it was not a moneymaker for the few dealers who made the trip, but it was a nice way for the rest of us to finish up 1973. What did happen at the con was a panel discussion involving both over and underground artists. Panelists were Charles Dallas, Lee Marrs, Gary Arlington, Clay Geerdes, Mike Friedrich, Frank Brunner, and Ted Richards. For Dallas, the panel was his initiation into the weird world of comic freaks, his first public exposure. For the rest of us, the questions were mundane. Mike Friedrich told the story of his career from Robin scriptor to mainline Marvel writer and potential underground publisher. Mike has plans for starting a news company to be known as Star Reach Publications. His first book will be Star Reach #1 and the artists are Howie Chaiken and Jim Starlin. Mike says Chaiken will do Iron Wolf the way he wanted to do it for DC and was not able to. WEIRD WORLDS having been cancelled. Gary Arlington was asked about his nickel library and explained that Bill Gaines sent a lawyer around to tell him to cease doing the neo-EC covers. How come? Well, the titles belong to Gaines and he has recently given reprint rights to East Coast Comix so it's likely the suit was filed partially to eliminate confusion. The library was Gary's hobby, a fan trip several years old. Publishers are usually lenient about fan trips, but evidently this was not one of those times. Lee Marrs was not asked any questions, but that is not surprising. Most of the audience consisted of teenaged boys and they didn't know who she was or what she was up to. Lee is just back from the Big Bad Apple and glad to be in Berkeley once again. She sold some work to both PLOP! and CRAZY, becoming the first local woman artist to break into those markets. Lee's own title, THE FURTHER FATTENING ADVENTURES OF PUDGE, GIRL BLIMP was published this week by Last-Gasp Eco-Funnies. Most of the questions were directed to Friedrich and Brunner and this was to be expected since most of those present were the hard-core straight comic fans. There are signs of change, however. Many of the fans are now reading both over and ugs. As far as questions go, they'd as soon watch the stars and get their autographs. A few ug people were at the con, but mostly because of Ted Richards. He lived in the town for awhile, so he knew what the comic scene was like there. Ted just published DOPIN' DAN #3. He brought up his idea for a comix rating code on the panel. It would work just like the one now used for the movies and would allow an artist to draw his books for any age group he chose. After the panel, we checked out the movies and sat around the expresso house talking the evening away. It was an upper. The mood of the younger Marvel artists is optimistic and that's rare at this point. ++++++++++++++++

PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES? When I first saw the work of Charley Dallas, it was sitting in Jaxon's living room and it was scary. We thought he would turn out to be one strange dude. The story was "The Dreamer" and it had been submitted to THRILLING MURDER and to SLOW DEATH. Both rejected it. Too gory. It wound up in Dallas' own title, PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES ILLUSTRATED. Fact is, Sharon Dallas was the one who did it first. She read an old 1935 WEIRD TALE, "The Homicidal Diary" by Earl Pierce, Jr., and it inspired the "Dreamer" poem which was later illustrated by Charles. Just out, PSYCHOTIC 2 is a barbarian story. A lot of gore, but the sex takes place off-panel so this one would probably receive the Orange County Seal of Approval. The author is a tall, soft-spoken young man with a beard and longhair. He and wife Sharon are both 22, both from Mechanicsburg, Pa. Charles' first story for ugs was "The Hairy Claw of Tolem" in SKULL 4, a story with a factual basis. Years of inbreeding led to a number of strange freaks being born in Tolem and one of them killed a child in 1910. He was chased into a schoolhouse and it was burned down. No body was found. In the story, Charles has the people burn down his house. Next Dallas illustrated Lovecraft's poem "To a Dreamer" for SKULL 5, then published his first book of PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES (Company & Sons). The rest of his ug work includes: "The Hunter" in PARANOIA (a collab with Sharon), "The Cellar Dwellers" in INSECT FEAR 3; "Recycled" in SLOW DEATH 5; "Violent Funnies" in REAL PULP 2, and now PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES 2. Coming work includes "Night Life," a tale about Topless Clubs in North Beach; and "Ernie's Gang." "Night Life" will be in Roger Brand's TALES OF SEX AND DEATH 2 and Ernie gets his re-venge in SLOW DEATH 6. Holmes, Jaxon, and Metzger are also featured in SD 6. February on that one if all goes well.



PSYCHOTIC ADVENTURES

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